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WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025 Cheshvan/Kislev 5786 Volume XXVI Number 2 FREE

The Samantha Woll Dialogue Series

By the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Michigan

In September 2025, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Michigan launched its new public dialogue series, named for Samantha Woll, who was president of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue when she was tragically murdered in October 2023 at the age of 40.

A University of Michigan graduate, Woll distinguished herself as a passionate community leader and grassroots organizer focused on women's rights, fair trade, labor rights, civil rights, refugee rights, the state of Israel, and more. While at the University, she served in the Michigan Student Assembly, contributed as a news and editorial staff writer for the *Michigan Daily,* and represented students as the University of Michigan's delegate to the Ann Arbor City Council. But it is in connection to her unwavering dedication to building bridges across religious, ethnic, political, and community divides that this series of public events honors her memory.

The Samantha Woll Dialogues bring together experts from within and outside of the university community to have meaningful, unscripted conversations about real and pressing issues in our society.

Margo Woll, mother of Samantha Woll, speaking to an opening reception at the inaugural Samantha Woll Dialogue on September 9, 2025.

The first event, "Should Universities Adopt a Definition of Antisemitism?", took place on September 9 at Rackham Amphitheater. Kenneth Stern, director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate and one of the primary authors of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, explained that though there are several proposed definitions, "none of them belong as a way to police speech, especially on a campus."

Rabbi Mayerfeld, CEO of the Zekelman Holocaust Memorial Center, differed, arguing that the real problem is universities lack functional mechanisms for addressing the concerns of Jewish students, staff, and faculty experiencing antisemitism on campus. "We have rules for harassment," he explained, "but we don't have a way to apply it to the case of antisemitism."

Interim University President Domenico Grasso attended the event and told the *Michigan Daily* that the dialogue was "very interesting and worthwhile, because it actually demonstrated that I want us to be a model for the rest of the nation for how we address topics that might be divisive. The conversation was broad, it was informed, it was thoughtful, and it was respectful. Many people came out of that lecture with a different perspective than when they entered it. This is how we should decide things on university campuses."

Raoul Wallenberg Institute Director Jeffrey Veidlinger agreed: "The incredible turnout and thoughtful dialogue at our first events have demonstrated the deep desire in our community for open, respectful conversation on challenging topics. By coming together and truly listening, we are honoring Samantha's legacy and helping to build a more understanding and connected campus community."

The second dialogue was held on September 30 at the Michigan Union. University of Michigan professors Karla Goldman and Andrew Murphy were joined by Amir Hussain, Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, to discuss the question "Is Tolerance Enough?"

Murphy stressed that university campuses are exactly the place to "model what it means to be an engaged citizen of a pluralistic multi-faith multi-ethnic space." He added that in "high school, you go to the library to find a book that *proves* your

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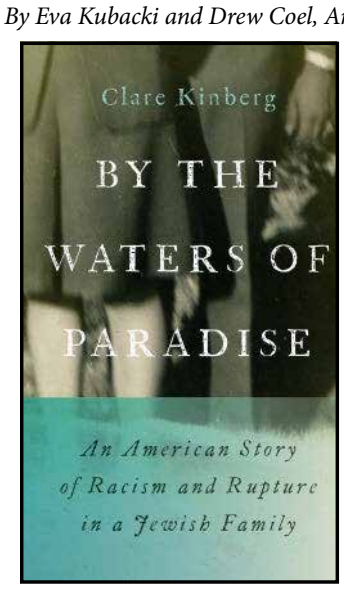
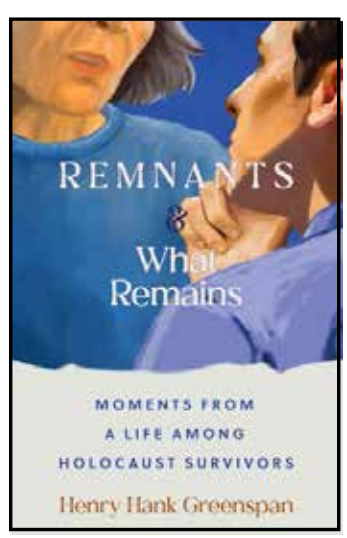
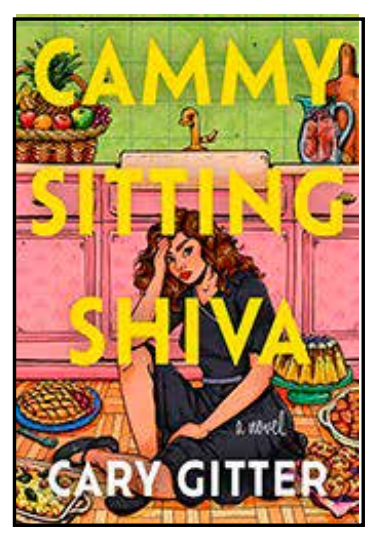
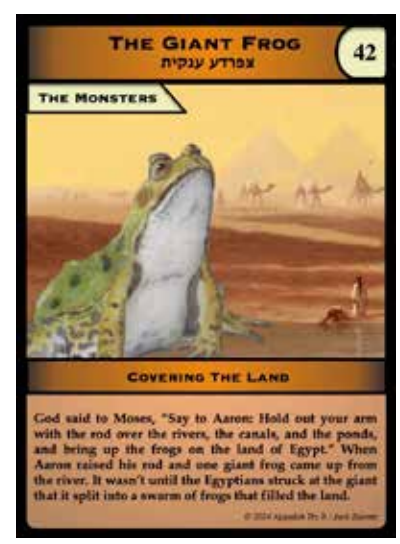
Local authors at the JCC NOV 20

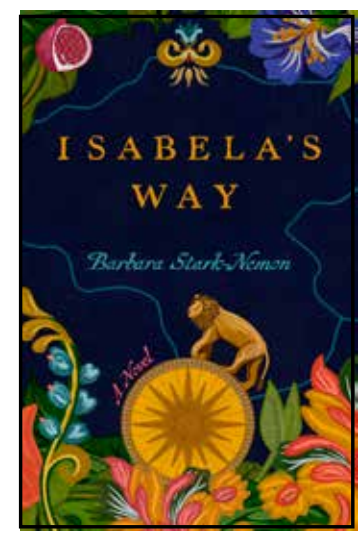
By Eva Kubacki and Drew Coel, Ann Arbor JCC











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From the editor

My first Michigan book event

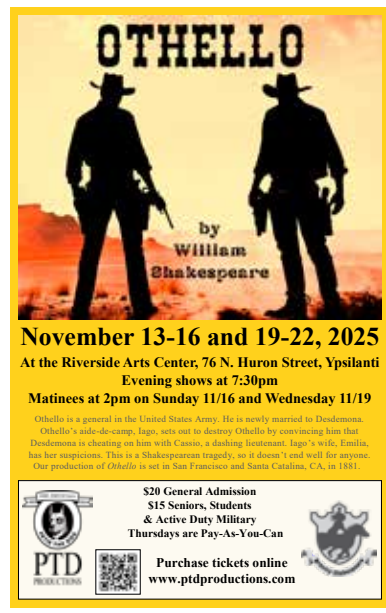
My book launch in St. Louis was easily one of the best evenings of my life. It was the people who showed up: those I've known since the 70s and 80s, to those I've just met this year.

I was anxious about my reading until I looked up and saw friends who surprised me by flying in from Brooklyn for the launch. The explosion of love I felt chased all anxiety away.

Then Charles Klotzer walked in. He will turn 100 on November 2. Klotzer was the founder of the *St Louis Journalism Review* in 1970 and was an early mentor of mine. Then old friends from the day (my 20s) streamed in. Then at least 10 of my cousins who I've known my whole life (and a few that I've just met), and a niece. Then a whole bunch of people I've met through MaTovu the Jewish community center coop I've joined in St. Louis. And believe it or not, there were people at the launch I didn't know at all!

It was grand. Really. And I signed a lot of books.

I'd love to see you at my first Washtenaw book event on November 20 at the JCC, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You'll be able to get your own signed copy of *By the Waters of Paradise.* ■



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Free inside Washtenaw County
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Phone numbers, websites, and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, 248-408-3269, annarborminyan.org

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-445-1910, aarecon.org

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, bethisrael-aa.org

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU): www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., lsa.umich.edu/judaic/

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, jccannarbor.org

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, jewishculturalsociety.org

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, pardeshannah.org

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE): 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, templebethemeth.org

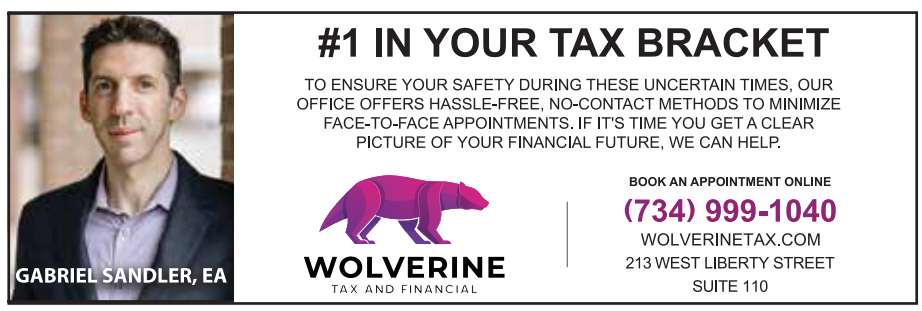
UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, michiganhillel.org

A2 studio tour

This November 8 and 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, take the a2 studio tour and visit individual artists' studios in the Ann Arbor area. Explore the rich diversity of visual art from painting and sculpture to mixed media, ceramics, and fiber art.

Take a driving tour of Ann Arbor area artists' studios. Explore creative spaces, engage with the artists, and gain insight into their creative processes.

Visit the website at a2studiotour.com to download the map or link to GPS. Over 20 participating artists. a2studiotour@gmail.com.. ■



THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ANN ARBOR'S

AUDACIOUS
$2 MILLION GOAL

FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

25% increase over last year!

$1.7 million Demonstrated needs of our communal organizations - JFS, JCC, Hand in Hand Schools in Israel, and many more.

Last year, these organizations requested $100,000 more than Federation was able to fund. This year, with your help, we can meet all communal needs.

$25,000 Keep vibrant ShinShinim in Ann Arbor after a wildly successful first year.

$275,000 Offset a fraction of our community's security expenses, including guards at synagogues and Hillels.

Security is an unfortunate necessity of Jewish life today. If we care about vibrant Jewish life for all of greater Ann Arbor, then we can each do our part to protect our Jewish spaces.

GIVE NOW

TO THE 2026 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN.

Visit JewishAnnArbor.org/Donate or scan the QR code.

HELP MEET THIS AUDACIOUS GOAL OF 25% MORE

for the Jewish community in greater Ann Arbor and around the world!

Whether it's $18 or $1800, every gift matters.

Sending money overseas: Where Ann Arbor's dollars go (Part 2)

By Eileen Freed, CEO Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

In these troubled times, when there are many questions and concerns about the actions of the current Israeli government, questions also arise around the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Israel/Overseas allocations from the Annual Community Campaign. In the September WJN, the Jewish Federation addressed some of those concerns related to the Jewish Agency and the organization's global impact.

"Since 2002, the Ann Arbor Jewish Federation has been a pioneer in allocating funds to projects and initiatives in Israel and globally that reflect the local community's values," says Jewish Federation's Director of Communications & Development, Rachel Wall. "We are proud of the impact we have had."

In partnership with Jewish Federations across the continent, the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community contributes to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), World ORT, and the Jewish Agency for Israel. In addition, the Federation supports specific Israeli NGOs doing work that aligns with the local community's value of a strong shared civil society in Israel. More in-depth information about greater Ann Arbor's support of the Jewish Agency can be found in the September 2025 WJN.

For those who have questions about the work of World ORT and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), read on.

World ORT

ORT, which stands for "Organization for Rehabilitation through Training," is a global education network driven by Jewish values. ORT supports 84,000 students of all backgrounds in more than 40 countries throughout the world. In ORT-supported schools, universities, and vocational training programs, students access otherwise-unavailable opportunities and education needed to lead a fulfilling life and contribute positively to the wider society.

The organization was founded in 1880 to further the employability of Russian Jews, teaching them essential trades and professions. Today, ORT focuses on providing a high-level STEM training for both students and educators to empower and strengthen communities worldwide.

World ORT is a longstanding partner of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). The greater Ann Arbor Federation contributes to the collective efforts of Federations nationwide in supporting Jews around the world through ORT.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

History & Impact

Founded in 1914, the JDC (known in Israel as "The Joint") is the leading global Jewish humanitarian organization. Its first project was to help starving Jews in Ottoman-era Palestine. Since then, JDC has become a beacon of hope for Jews and others in 70 countries today.

JDC remained active in Europe during the rise of Nazism, providing a range of services, such as soup kitchens in Jewish ghettos, until the spreading war made it impossible to continue. At the end of World War II, JDC partnered with other relief organizations to provide food, clothing, job training, education, religious materials, legal representation, and emigration assistance to hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. By 1947, an estimated 250,000 Jewish refugees had passed through DP camps and received help from JDC.

Coincidentally, a key figure in the JDC's rescue and resettlement efforts has an Ann Arbor connection. Harold Trobe, the father of Ann Arbor's Jonathan Trobe (Chair of the Maimonides Committee of the Jewish Federation), spent 36 years in post-war Europe working for the JDC and the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS). The elder Trobe directed JDC's financial support of refugee movement, basic needs, and medical attention. "I witnessed my father's efforts, and the impact of the JDC firsthand," says Jonathan Trobe. "His work inspired me and helped drive my commitment to Israel and the global Jewish community."

Some other highlights of JDC's work more recently include coordinating the rescue of Muslims, Christians, and Jews from war-torn Sarajevo in 1992, developing and implementing emergency relief programs during the financial crisis in Argentina, and coordinating relief and development responses to the South Asian tsunami and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

JDC in the Former Soviet Union

In 1988, after an absence of 50 years, the JDC returned to the Soviet Union where they revitalized Jewish communal institutions and empowered the Soviet Jewry movement. With the fall of the Soviet Union, JDC was — and continues to be — a leader in fostering the development of welfare support infrastructure and vibrant Jewish communities throughout the former Soviet Union (FSU). Elder care is a cornerstone of this work, and JDC provides life-saving aid to over 80,000 Jewish older adults, including former doctors, teachers, and engineers struggling to survive on pensions as low as $2 per day. These are the poorest Jews in the world, many of whom are Holocaust survivors. JDC provides crucial aid as well as connections to people and to Jewish tradition, allowing them to do more than just survive, but to live with dignity, joy, and hope.

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor chooses to contribute directly to the JDC's work in the FSU, its largest contribution to a single overseas cause, in addition to a more general allocation of funds to the JDC's activities worldwide through JFNA.

JDC and the War in Ukraine

Russia's aggression against Ukraine beginning in 2022 made the JDC's work in the FSU even more challenging, and more critical. Because its extensive network of social service and community agencies were already well-established throughout the region, JDC was able to mobilize quickly from the start of the war. The organization worked to rescue and resettle people in danger zones and continued to support elderly Jews and poor families living in the conflict zones. Now, three years later, JDC and its team provide basic needs to the Ukrainian Jewish community and throughout the region, including food, medicine, trauma support, children's education, employment assistance, and seasonal winter survival aid.

Witnessing JDC's Work Firsthand

Ann Arbor community member Bob Merion's ancestors are from Ukraine, and he says, "When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it felt personal." Impressed by the JDC's global humanitarian work and special focus on aid to Jews in the FSU, Merion and his wife Debbie donated to the JDC. This donation led to an opportunity to witness the JDC's lifesaving work firsthand on a JDC "fly-in" to Moldova and Ukraine in June of 2025.

Merion described the trip as transformative. "I met Liliana, a retired Russian language instructor who lives alone in her decaying Soviet-era walk-up apartment in Chisinau, Moldova. JDC pays for medications, and supplements her $74 monthly pension, enabling her to have food year round and heat in the harsh winter months. Home care workers help with bathing, cooking, and cleaning. Liliana was deeply moved and grateful that we visited her — she hasn't been out of her apartment in two years — and I was profoundly moved by the impact of the JDC, literally saving Liliana and elderly Jews like her from starvation and death."

In Chernivtsi, Ukraine, Merion visited Maryna, a retired math and physics teacher living alone in a sparsely furnished apartment. "Maryna has no indoor shower and shares a tiny communal kitchen with residents of three other apartments on her floor. Like Liliana, Maryna treasured our visit. The local Jewish community has also opened their hearts and homes to internally displaced persons (IDPs) of all ages who have stayed in Ukraine but left everything to flee the front lines of the war. The day-to-day survival of the elderly and IDPs depend on services provided by the JDC, and, amazingly, small Jewish communities are thriving with support from innovative JDC programs."

JDC in Israel

JDC's operations worldwide include support in Israel. There, the focus is on improving the lives of Israel's poor and elderly, at-risk youth, people with disabilities, and Haredi and Israeli Arab communities through innovative initiatives that aim to address the nation's most complex social challenges. As they do around the world, JDC uses a system-based approach to its work. In Israel, that means bringing together government ministries, municipal leaders, business and philanthropic sectors, and NGOs to identify issues and create research-backed, scalable social innovations.

One such JDC Israel project is PACT (Parents and Children Together), a pioneering initiative which aimed to close the education gap between Ethiopian immigrants and those born in Israel. Research showed that this pilot program was highly effective in both closing the gap and improving the educational outcomes for all children where it was implemented. It was then incorporated into Israel's education infrastructure and funded by local municipalities and the education ministry.

Jewish Federation has also funded projects to address socioeconomic challenges in the Druze community by providing education for Druze women to start their own in-home businesses and courses for Druze women to become math teachers and tutors in their communities.

Post-October 7

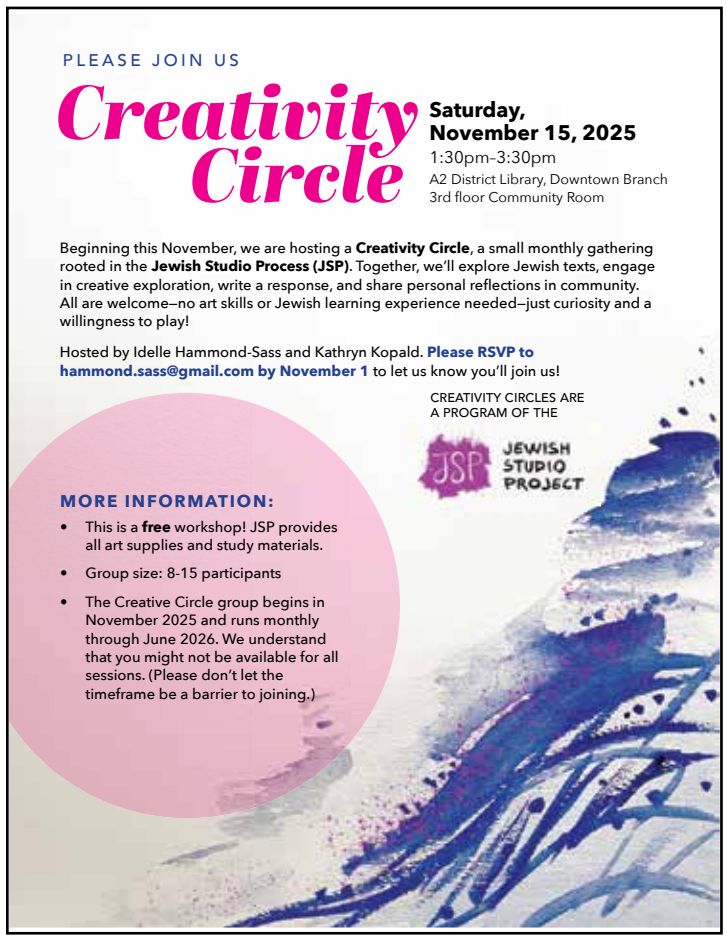
Since October 7, JDC has directly aided more than 1 million of the most vulnerable Israelis — the elderly, people with disabilities, children and families at risk, and the poor. Their expertise in addressing global crises and building community resilience was put to work coordinating comprehensive humanitarian responses in the hardest-hit cities; providing lifesaving emergency preparedness education and digital mental health resources for seniors and people with disabilities; addressing war-related challenges facing Israeli children and youth displaced by the conflict; and revitalizing Israel's workforce and economy in the face of closures, rising unemployment, and a downturn in foreign investment.

The Jewish Federation's October 7 Emergency Fund, supported by donors from the greater Ann Arbor community and throughout North America, helped support these lifesaving efforts.

The Jewish Federation's team is available to answer any questions or concerns about programs and initiatives it funds in Israel and around the world. You can contact Federation's Israel and Overseas Programs Manager Amichay Findling (amichay@jewishannarbor.org) to continue the conversation. ■

Ukrainian internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Chernivtsi, Ukraine meet with Bob Merion (back to camera), two other JDC fly-in members, and JDC staff member Inna Vdovichenko (June 2025).

Bob Merion and other JDC fly-in members and JDC staff on a home visit to Liliana (third from right) in her apartment in Chisinau, Moldova.



Travel writer Dan Fellner: Jewish life where you might least expect it

Eastern Michigan University's Center for Jewish Studies is excited to announce that travel journalist/photographer Dan Fellner will deliver the Seventh Annual Art and Mary Schuman Lecture. The title of Fellner's talk is "From Curry to Kreplach." Fellner will discuss Jewish life on five different continents in such fascinating places as Curacao, South Africa, Norway, Vietnam, Barbados, and three of the most historic synagogues in the United States. This highly visual presentation will explore the survival and resilience of Jewish life in places you might least expect to find it.

Fellner is an eight-time Fullbright Fellow who has taught journalism and communications at universities in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. He has published over 150 travel articles in such places as the *Jerusalem Post, The Forward, USA Today, Hadassah Magazine,* and the *Arizona Republic* (all of his published work can viewed at DanFellner.com). He will speak about some of the most interesting and off-the-beaten-path Jewish communities around the world.

This talk will take place on Monday, December 2, at 7 p.m. in room 310A of the EMU Student Center (900 Oakwood Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197). This event is free and open to the public. Please send inquiries to jewish.studies@emich.edu ■

Vladimir Kara-Murza to deliver Wallenberg Lecture

Vladimir Kara-Murza, Russian politician, author, historian, and former political prisoner, will receive the 2025 Wallenberg Medal from the University of Michigan on November 4 at 4:30 p.m. in Rackham Auditorium.

Kara-Murza will deliver the 30th Wallenberg Lecture entitled "Free People in an Unfree Country: Standing Up to Kremlin Tyranny, Past and Present." In keeping with the tradition of the Wallenberg Lecture, Kara-Murza will draw on his personal experience to share with the audience his understanding of how one person can make a difference.

Under the auspices of the Donia Human Rights Center, U-M awards the Wallenberg Medal to those who, through their actions and personal commitment, perpetuate Raoul Wallenberg's extraordinary accomplishments and human values, and demonstrate the capacity of the human spirit to stand up for the helpless, to defend the integrity of the powerless, and to speak out on behalf of the voiceless.

A close colleague of the slain opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, Kara-Murza served as deputy leader of the People's Freedom Party and was a candidate for the Russian Parliament. Leading diplomatic efforts on behalf of the opposition, he played a key role in the adoption of Magnitsky sanctions against top Russian officials by the United States, United Kingdom, European Union, Canada, and Australia.

Magnitsky sanctions are governmental sanctions against foreign individuals who have committed human rights abuses or been involved in significant corruption. For this work he was twice poisoned and left in a coma; a joint media investigation by *Bellingcat, The Insider*, and *Der Spiegel* has determined that officers of the Russian Federal Security Services (FSB) were behind the attacks.

In April 2022 Kara-Murza was arrested in Moscow for publicly denouncing the invasion of Ukraine and war crimes committed by Russian forces. Following a closed-door trial at the Moscow City Court, he was sentenced to 25 years for "high treason" and kept in solitary confinement at a maximum-security prison in Siberia. He was released in August 2024 as part of the largest East-West prisoner exchange since the Cold War, negotiated by the U.S. and German governments. Kara-Murza is a contributing writer at *The Washington Post,* winning the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for his columns written from prison, and has previously worked for *Echo of Moscow, BBC, RTVi*, *Kommersant, World Affairs*, and other media organizations.

He has directed three documentary films and is the author of or contributor to several books on Russian history and politics. Kara-Murza serves as vice-president at the Free Russia Foundation, as senior advisor at Human Rights First, and as senior fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights in Montreal. He was the founding chairman of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom and has led successful international efforts to commemorate Nemtsov, including with street designations in Washington, D.C., and London. Kara-Murza is a recipient of several awards, including the Council of Europe's Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, and is an honorary fellow at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He holds an MA (Cantab.) in History from Cambridge. He is married, with three children

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Interfaith Round Table

By Cantor Regina Hayut

In our world today, when divisions between people are pronounced and contentious, we are all too often seeking like-minded and like-behaving friends with whom to bemoan the situation.

However, our diversity can be our strength, and the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County (IRT) seeks to lean into appreciating and learning from one another's differences. The IRT's core mission is "To build meaningful relationships among people of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds and journeys, cultivating a culture of awareness and compassion." At the same time, many of us do find a common thread in our spiritual life even if we observe the specifics of our religions in unique and particularistic ways.

And so the IRT programming during the course of the year looks to help members of our larger Washtenaw County community learn, grow, and appreciate what makes our various religious traditions so unique, meaningful, and special to different adherents, also while seeking to find the ties that also bind us in our shared humanitarian values.

The Fall Gathering is a centerpiece event of the IRT that leans deeply into exploring all of this complexity and beauty within our community.

Each year, the IRT gathers in mid-November to celebrate, learn, and interact with one another around the festival of Thanksgiving. Members and leaders of our various religious institutions gather and share leadership of an ecumenical service that focuses on uplifting our community and our world.

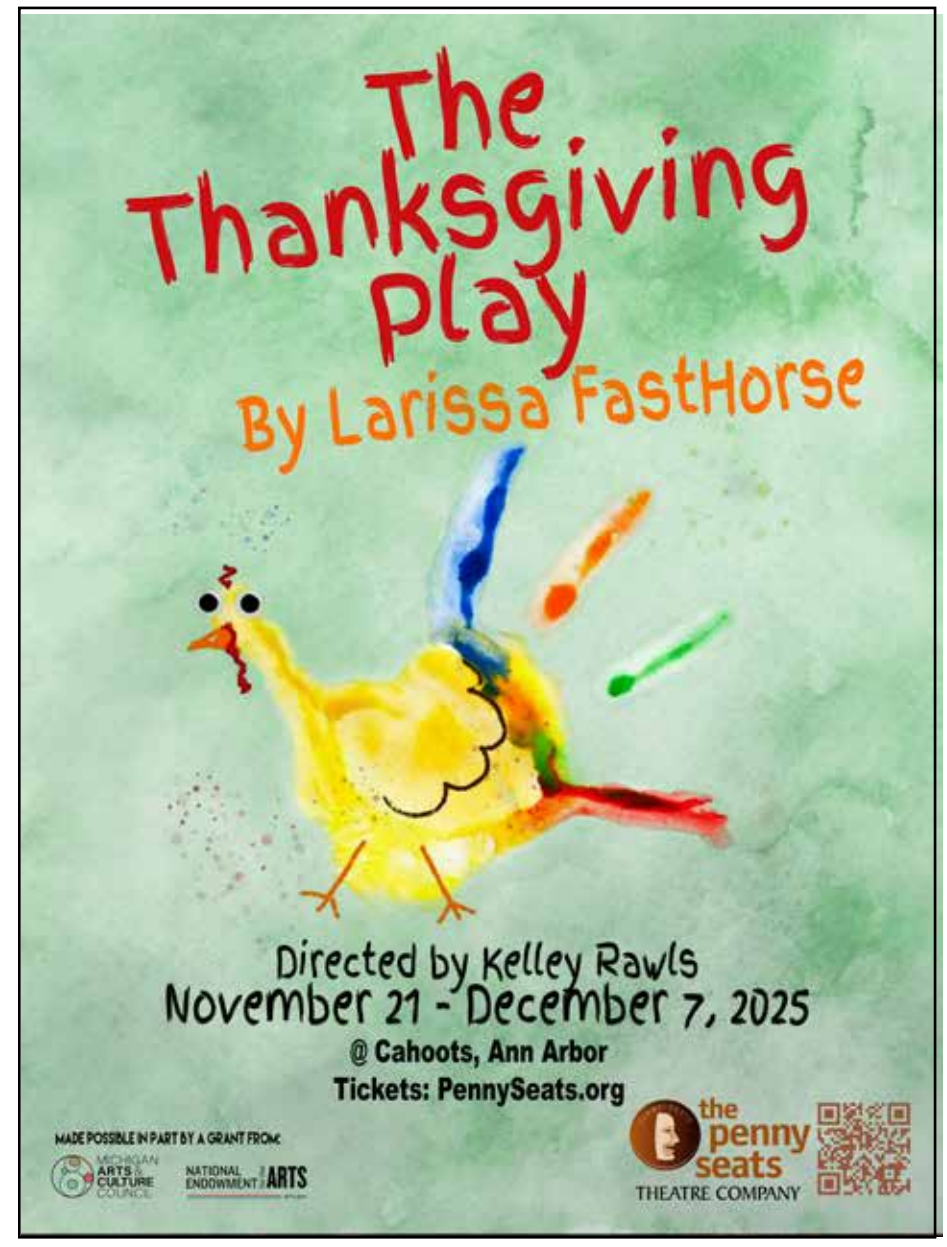
This year, we are blessed to have Dr. Rev. Lauren Zinn as our keynote speaker. Dr. Zinn's address, titled "Belong to the World, Bring your Tribe: Reimagining Our Religions in the Interspiritual Age," will explore how religion and our faith communities can survive and evolve in our changing, interspiritual world.

Dr. Zinn is a former board member and volunteer of the IRT and designer of Faces of Faith. She founded and led Congregation Jewbilation: Jewish Roots with Interfaith Wings for six years and over a 15-year period developed The Interspiritual Classroom for teaching religion in the interspiritual age. She has a doctorate in Educational Planning from The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and is an ordained interfaith minister from All Faiths Seminary, NYC. Her book, *Belong to the World, Bring your Tribe: Reimagining Judaism in the Interspiritual Age,* will be available at the end of the year.

The service will be followed by a delicious reception offering everyone the opportunity to enjoy refreshments as well as the company of those invested in participating in the many and varied religious communities of our county.

This very special service will take place on Sunday, November 16, at 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. It is free and open to the public. Registration is requested. All are welcome. Please see the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County's website for more information and to register. ■

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
BRAHMS' SYMPHONY NO. 2
Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 7:30 PM
Michigan Theater
(603 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104)
HOLIDAY POPS
Saturday, December 20, 2025 | 7:00 PM
Hill Auditorium
(825 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109)
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
CHILDRENS TICKETS START AT $12!
www.a2so.org
(734) 994-4801
Discounts available for kids, students, and groups of 10+


The Thanksgiving Play
By Larissa FastHorse
Directed by Kelley Rawls
November 21 - December 7, 2025
@ Cahoots, Ann Arbor
Tickets: PennySeats.org
MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GRANT FROM:
MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
the penny seats
THEATRE COMPANY

JFS is thankful for you!
We are filled with gratitude for our generous donors, volunteers, and supporters.
Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of those we serve.
JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Harvesting home and hope: JCLP celebrates Sukkot

By Morgan Hesse

To prepare for the holiday of Sukkot, students of the University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) laid the roof on a Sukkah on campus, filling the structure with paper chains and other welcoming decorations in preparation for their community outreach events throughout the week. The celebrations began on October 8 with JCLP's Sukkot Open House. First-year JCLP student Rhyan Orenstein welcomed the 75 U-M students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community members in attendance, emphasizing the importance of community building and self-reflection during the weeklong holiday. Student speaker Jacob Keer, also a member of JCLP's first-year cohort, walked attendees through the ceremonial shaking of the lulav and etrog, delving into the meaning behind each part of the ritual. To conclude the spoken portion of the event, second-year JCLP student Sam Tick-Raker passed around a microphone, inviting attendees to share what home and hope mean to them.

On October 9, U-M's School of Social Work gathered students, staff, and faculty into the Sukkah for community dialogue centered around the idea that "When You Change Yourself, You Change the World." In small groups, attendees discussed questions that built on the meanings of home and hope identified at the JCLP Open House. At each table, JCLP students guided attendees through these questions, thinking alongside their tablemates about the attitudes with which they approach personally challenging conversations. A sharing session with the larger group highlighted that attendees were overwhelmingly leaning on their loved ones for hope, relying on shared humanity to move through difficult times. Throughout the events this week, JCLP students demonstrated vulnerability, a willingness to learn from those around them, and a continued commitment to actively engaging with the broader Ann Arbor community.

Women's Liberation at the University of Michigan

Looking forward, community members are invited to join the JCLP and U-M's Inclusive History Project (IHP) on November 12 at 6 p.m. for a panel on "Women's Liberation at the University of Michigan, 1968–1972: Jewish and Other Identities in the Emergence of a Movement." This program will feature a conversation with pioneering activists Gayle Rubin, Rayna Rapp, Ellen Meeropol, Beth Schneider, and Joanne Parrent as part of the IHP project, "Outsiders, Insiders, Radicals, and Reformers: A History of Jews at the University of Michigan." The event will be held in the School of Social Work, 1080 S University Ave, with a reception to follow. Please RSVP at https://myumi.ch/rApmM or contact kriemer@umich.edu with any questions. ■

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Starting our new chapter in Ann Arbor

By Carmel and Ori, ShinShinim

Carmel and Ori came to Ann Arbor to strengthen the connections between the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community and Israel through informal education — interactive lessons that include music, culture, Israeli childhood games, food, and more. They arrived in Ann Arbor in August 2025 for a service year as Israeli emissaries between their high school graduation and military service through the ShinShinim program of the international Jewish Agency for Israel. They share here what they've been up to around town recently. To learn more about the program, contact Amichay Findling at the Jewish Federation at amichay@jewishannarbor.org.

It's amazing to think that only a short time ago we arrived in Ann Arbor to begin our year as ShinShinim — young Israeli emissaries serving in the Jewish community. Since then, our days have been filled with excitement, learning, and a growing sense of connection to this warm and welcoming community.

Our first month coincided with the High Holidays, giving us a beautiful opportunity to celebrate Rosh Hashanah together with local families. We shared songs, stories, and reflections about new beginnings — both for the Jewish year and for our own journey here. Experiencing these holidays so far from home reminded us of the strength of Jewish unity and how tradition can bring people together no matter where they are.

As we began working with local Jewish children, we introduced students to Israeli geography and culture, helping them explore the many layers that make Israel unique — from its landscapes and languages to the people who shape it. In the Ann Arbor Public Library, we read Hebrew storybooks with children and families, creating moments of curiosity and connection that reached beyond the Jewish community and into the broader local population.

Ori (L) at an Interfaith Leaders Lunch in the Sukkah at the JCC.

We also celebrated Sukkot with the community, building and decorating the sukkah, sharing food and songs, and feeling the joy of togetherness that the holiday represents.

Of course, starting a new chapter in a new country brings excitement, curiosity, and a little nervousness. But each smile, question, and conversation reminds us that we are exactly where we are meant to be. We're grateful for this community's warmth and openness and are eager to keep bringing Israel to life here in Ann Arbor — through stories, culture, language, and friendship. . ■

Carmel and Ori met up with local high schoolers at Blank Slate Creamery just days after arriving in Ann Arbor.

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California Thanksgiving collage

By Lonnie Sussman

Twice a year I say, "no more cooking until the next major holiday." This means after the holidays of Tishrei (Rosh Hashanah through Sukkot) and then again after Pesach (Passover). Of course, it's not completely true, as Thanksgiving is almost upon us, and then, hopefully, there is always more joy and family and friends for Shabbat and other occasions. I wish you all a happy November and a thankful Thanksgiving.

The summer is over but I'm looking at the photos from a second trip to California, a trip I took with lifelong friends. They are fantastic hosts and fantastic cooks who shared some of the recipes we ate and a bit of history with them.

Tuna Burgers

Michel Richard's Home Cooking with a French Accent, with Judy Zeidler and Jan Weimer

Serves 4

Michel Richard was a famous French born chef who won a James Beard Foundation award in 2007. Our friends in Palo Alto showed me this cookbook because Jan Weimer was their sister.

- 1½ to 2 pounds fresh well chilled tuna fillet, or freeze it for 30 minutes before chopping
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 4 anchovies, minced (optional, of course)
- ¼ cup chopped basil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Mayonnaise or olive oil and red wine vinegar (Condiment)
- 3 tbs olive oil set aside for cooking in a skillet
- 4 soft hamburger buns (soft is important as hard bread will spread the fish all over the place)
- 1 large tomato, sliced very thin
- 4 leaves lettuce (optional)
- 3 tbs olive oil

Line a baking sheet or large plate with parchment paper. Trim the dark oily portions from the tuna fillet. Thinly slice the tuna, then chop it using a very sharp knife. The idea is to chop it fine enough to be the texture of hamburger and then press it into a ball. Mix in the garlic, olive oil, anchovies, if using them, basil, salt, and pepper. Taste and adjust the seasonings. Divide the mixture into 4 balls and form into 1-inch-thick patties. Place on the baking sheet or plate and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Since you want to serve the patties hot off the pan, prepare the buns by spreading the condiment of your choice and a slice of tomato and a leaf of lettuce. You might like mayonnaise or olive oil but, you can try adding a bit of sesame oil to the mayo for a different flavor. Heat the 3 tbs oil in a heavy large nonstick skillet or cast-iron skillet until very hot. Add the tuna patties and cook for about 1 minute per side for rare and about 1½ per side for medium-rare.

Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Shells

Fork Knife Swoon (web and Instagram) by Laura Bolton

Serves 4

Here is another delicious recipe from our Palo Alto friends. I made this for our family, and it was a huge hit.

- 16 jumbo pasta shells, but cook a few more as some tend to break while cooking.
- 1½ tbs olive oil
- 2 tsp garlic, minced
- 4 cups packed fresh spinach leaves, roughly chopped
- 12 oz skim-milk ricotta cheese (I used full fat)
- 1 cup shredded skim-milk (or full fat) mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan, plus more for serving
- 1 large egg
- 1 tbs fresh basil, finely chopped
- 1 tsp Kosher salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 1¼ cups marinara sauce

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cook the pasta al dente, according to the package instructions. Drain and set aside. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet, over medium-high heat. When the oil begins to shimmer add the garlic for 1–2 minutes or until it starts to brown. Add the spinach and cook, stirring occasionally, until the leaves begin to wilt but are still bright green. That should take 3–4 minutes, and the spinach will be reduced about half. Remove from heat and let cool. Use a mixing bowl and stir together the spinach, ricotta, mozzarella, Parmesan, egg, basil and salt and pepper until thoroughly combined. Pour ½ cup of the marinara sauce into the bottom of a shallow 8x8 inch baking dish. I made 1 box of the pasta, and I used the 9x13 baking dish. Gently stuff each pasta shell with a generous amount of the spinach/ricotta mixture. This can be a bit tricky, but I used a very small teaspoon and made a little mess. I even used the shells that weren't perfect and fed some of the mixture back into the next shell. Put the shells into the baking dish and cover them with the rest of the marinara sauce. Cover with aluminum foil for 25 minutes and then remove the foil and continue baking until the top begins to brown and the sauce begins to bubble, another 10–15 minutes. Serve with a dusting of the Parmesan.

Red Onion Pickles

From Judy Rodgers and adapted by David Tanis. It was originally made at the San Francisco restaurant, Zuni Café.

Yields 2 pints

Another great recipe from our friend in California. He regularly makes them because they are so delicious. Put the pickled red onions on your bagel with whatever shmear you use along with lox.

- 3 cups distilled white vinegar
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 1 (3-inch) cinnamon stick, broken
- A few cloves (or not, I hate them)
- A few allspice berries (try them)
- 1 dried red chili (optional)
- 1 star anise pod (optional)
- 2 bay leaves
- A few black peppercorns
- 1 pound firm red onions (about 2 medium)

First make the brine by combining all the ingredients except the onion, and put them into a 4-quart or larger non-reactive pot at least 10 inches in diameter. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 3 minutes. Cover the pot, turn off the heat, and leave to infuse for 10 minutes. Peel the onions, trim the ends, and slice cross wise into 3/8-inch-thick slices. Separate into rings, discard any green centers or leathery outer rings. Bring the brine back to a boil and add the onions. Turn off the heat. Stir with a wooden spoon to submerge the onions and leave them to steep, covered, until the mixture cools. Transfer the onions and brine to pint jars (Mason jars are the best) and refrigerate for at least a day before serving.

Gravlax

This is a recipe attributed to Mark Bittman, and it's yet another from the friends. I'm not a huge fan of lox but this was incredibly delicious, especially with the pickled red onions. This will make about 12 servings, unless someone can't stop eating the lox.

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 bunch dill, stems and all, chopped
- One 2–3-pound fillet of salmon, pin bones removed

Mix the salt, sugar, and dill together. Place the salmon, skin side down, on a large sheet of plastic wrap. Cover the flesh side of the salmon with the salt mixture. Coat it completely and just pile it all on. Wrap the fish well. If the temperature is below 70 degrees and you can do this, let it rest outside the refrigerator for about 6 hours and then refrigerate for 18–24 hours more. Otherwise, refrigerate immediately for about 36 hours. Then slice very, very thinly.

Another version of Gravlax

Vered Meir in The Nosher from the website www.myjewish learning.com

Suddenly, I saw several other versions of making homemade lox. I'm sure you can find more ways to add flavors, but the important ingredients are the sugar and salt that create the brine.

- 2 pounds center-cut wild salmon fillet, skin on
- ½ cup kosher salt
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tbs crushed peppercorns
- 2 tbs crushed juniper berries
- 7–8 large sprigs fresh dill
- 1 or 2 shots gin or vodka

Combine the salt, sugar, peppercorns, and juniper berries. Line a glass dish with 2 large pieces of plastic wrap and sprinkle half the salt and sugar mixture onto the bottom. Lay half the dill sprigs down and then add the salmon. Sprinkle the remaining mixture on top of the fillet and cover with the rest of the dill and the alcohol and wrap everything as tightly as you can in the plastic. The salt will create the brine, so leave everything in the dish and refrigerate for 3–4 days. The salmon color should change to a deep orange. Before serving, discard the dill and rinse the fillet of the brine and peppercorns and juniper berries. Slice thinly against the grain.

Cranberry and Eggplant Tachin

Hadassahmagazine.org, article by Adeena Sussman (unfortunately, not a relative)

Serves 10

Here is my effort to start preparing for Thanksgiving. There will be some exciting activity at the end of the cooking. Do not fear (or maybe fear a little bit).

- ½ cup-plus canola or olive or avocado oil
- 4 cups basmati rice
- 1 tsp saffron threads
- 7 tbs-plus kosher salt
- 3 ice cubes
- 2 globe eggplants, cut into ¼ inch slices lengthwise
- 4 eggs, beaten
- Juice of 1 lemon
- ¾ cup dried cranberries

Grease a 9x13-inch glass baking dish with ½ cup oil.

Rinse the rice until the water runs clear and place it in a large bowl. Cover the rice with room temperature water and let it soak for 30 minutes or up to 1 hour. Strain. Make the saffron water by placing the saffron threads and a pinch of salt into a mortar and pestle. Grind until the saffron turns into powder. Then add the 3 cubes of ice and let the ice melt into the saffron. Turn the oven to broil and place a rack in the upper third of the oven.

Place the eggplant slices on 2 parchment-lined baking sheets. Drizzle the tops with a little more oil and put one baking sheet into the oven. Broil until the eggplant is dark golden brown and almost charred, about 5 minutes. Remove the baking sheet and flip the slices, drizzle with a bit more oil and return to oven to broil for another 3 minutes or so.

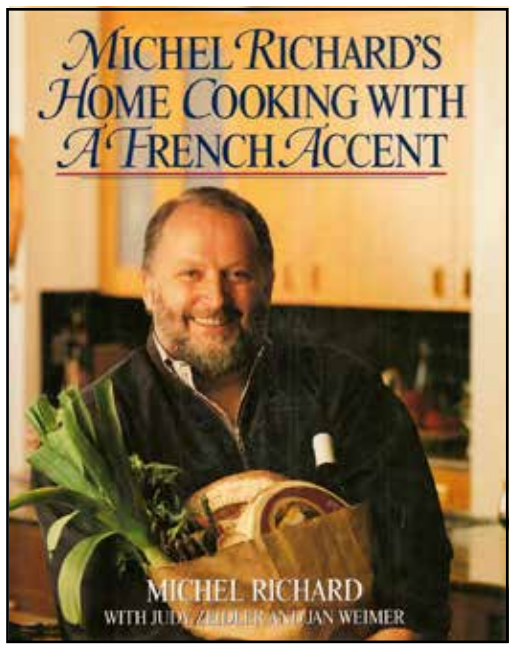
When you take the sheet out, sprinkle the salt on the eggplant. Repeat with the second sheet pan and the rest of the eggplant. When both sheets are finished broiling, turn the oven to bake at 350 degrees. Bring a large pot of water to a boil over medium high heat and add the 7 tbs salt to the boiling water. Add the rice and cook for 6–8 minutes so that the rice is partially cooked and still has a bite to it. Then, drain the rice. Place the saffron water, eggs, lemon juice, and 1 tsp salt into a large mixing bowl. Whisk to combine. Add the rice to the bowl and gently fold until the rice is completely coated. Place half the rice into the bottom of the oiled baking dish and use a large spoon or spatula to smooth into an even layer.

Sprinkle ½ cup of the dried cranberries in an even layer over the rice. Add the eggplant slices in a single layer and top with the rest of the rice to completely cover the eggplant. Cover the baking dish tightly with aluminum foil. Bake for 2 hours or until the rice

Continued on page 11

Kosher Cuisine' continues from page 10

is golden brown on the bottom of the dish. (peek at the glass bottom). Let it rest outside the oven for 5 minutes. To unmold the Tachin, place a serving platter larger than the glass baking dish over the top. Be careful, and good luck, be confident. Flip the Tachin onto the platter and lift the baking dish. Sprinkle the remaining cranberries over top and serve.



Seared Tempeh with Red Wine Cranberry Sauce

From *PETA Global M*agazine

Serves 8.

There was a vegan food fair in Ypsilanti in September. The same people who brought a speaker to our synagogue to speak about veganism and its connection to health, spirituality, and nature told me about this fair. My husband and I watched an interesting and tasty demonstration of salad making with tons of fun ingredients but so many I couldn't get all the details. They also gave away this magazine, and I thought this recipe would be good for Thanksgiving.

2 lbs tempeh, cut into thin and angled slices
2 cups vegetable broth (I'm a huge fan of Zoup brand which is vegan and kosher)
1 cup water
¼ to ½ onion, chopped
1 carrot, peeled and chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped
2 bay leaves
4 sprigs thyme
1 tbs whole black peppercorns
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp cracked black pepper
2 tbs chopped sage
3 tbs vegetable oil

Place the tempeh, vegetable broth, all the vegetables, bay leaves, thyme, and peppercorns in a large pot. Bring to a simmer and cook for 1 hour. Remove the tempeh and reserve the liquid for the sauce. Sprinkle the tempeh with the salt, ground pepper, and sage. In a sauté pan, sear the tempeh in the oil for 2 minutes on each side. Add the cranberry sauce and toss to coat.

Red Wine Cranberry Sauce

Use a pot and place the strained cooking liquid, 2 cups of a dry red wine, 1 cinnamon stick, ½ cup agave nectar, and 2 cups fresh or frozen whole cranberries. Bring to a simmer and cook for 30 minutes. Swirl in ½ cup non-dairy margarine like Earth Balance and season with salt and pepper. ■

Restaurant review

A Day Trip to Italy — in Plymouth

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b-mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

Once every few months, we take our readers a little further afield. Leaving Washtenaw County for something that is worth the drive. This time, we imagined ourselves in Italy as we traveled to Plymouth to explore Cantoro Market & Trattoria. A little planning, like bringing a cooler with some ice packs, will let you extend your day trip as you enjoy your market purchases at home.

In 1968, Mario Fallone opened the original Cantoro market in Detroit. Like many businesses of that era, Fallone followed the residential flight from the city and relocated to Livonia in 1967. Shopping at this location is an old-world shopping adventure unto itself, and is highly recommended.

Cantoro Trattoria & Cantoro Italian Market continued its expansion westward to Plymouth, opening in 2014, which services the growing population in the area. To get to the Trattoria, you walk through the eye-popping beauty of the produce section, and just past the tempting gelateria of the market you will find it. We were early for our reservation, so we spent some time exploring, including the second-floor Italian marketplace with imported non-food selections and filling our carts with fresh produce, house-made pasta, and sauces for meals on another day. We had just enough time to pop our provisions into our cooler before we sat down for a memorable lunch on a fall Saturday. Light flooded through the floor to ceiling windows of the beautifully appointed dining room, transporting us to a bright, airy, sun-drenched Italian terrace as we were seated at a comfortable table that encouraged lingering. A quick visual survey of other diners showed some diners were dressed up for lunch and others were in their casual Saturday errand-running clothes — so come as you are.

Perusing the menu, we had a hard time making choices because so many things looked good. The lunch menu is slightly different than the dinner menu, adding a selection of panini, some simpler (and less expensive) pasta dishes, and omitting the "secondi" selections of grilled meats and entrees. This is a restaurant that would be a speciurant reviewal day out for most, but enjoying lunch makes it a little lighter on the pocketbook and no less enjoyable.

While we were making our selections for lunch, a basket of warm house-made bread arrived accompanied by a dish of a luxurious deep green olive oil for dipping. We started with the Rucolo e Parmigiano salad — a refreshing mix of peppery baby arugula, shaved parmesan, and dressed with lemon and extra virgin olive oil. It was a lovely beginning to our meal, highlighting what Italians do best — using fresh, high-quality ingredients, and simple preparation. One salad was plenty for the two of us to share.

Next to arrive was the pizza. The dough, not surprisingly, is house made and cooked in a wood burning oven. The pizza selection is extensive — offering some really delicious sounding combinations. We shared the Melanzane and we are still thinking about the perfectly roasted bites of eggplant and silky roasted garlic cloves that were nestled among the fresh tomato sauce and mozzarella. The pizza crust deserves a special mention. The texture was light and crisp enough to support the toppings, and had a lovely subtle flavor. This dough was not rushed in any way during its development and has the flavor and texture to prove it. Simple perfection. Knowing that we had our pasta entrees coming, we had to resist the urge to have another piece of pizza. We took it home instead and enjoyed it for dinner that evening.

One benefit of dining at lunch is they offer half portions of the house-made pasta dishes — which meant we could order two! After some debate, we selected the gnocchi pesto and a variation on the penne alla vodka. As described, it contains pancetta and after we asked if it could be omitted, our server offered a different sauce that doesn't contain pork. It has been our experience that the kitchen will accommodate deletions and substitutions where possible on all menu items. The gnocchi were perfectly prepared and had a toothsome yet light texture. The pesto sauce was a lighter version than others we have tried, meaning it wasn't garlic and parmesan laden. The fresh basil and olive oil were allowed to shine and were enhanced by the garlic, parmesan, grape tomatoes, and toasted pine nuts. The penne was cooked to "al dente" perfectionand was served with our substitution — a luscious creamy tomato Palomino sauce that did not disappoint. We gilded the lily with the addition of freshly grated parmesan cheese on top of both pastas.

After all that, we weren't quite sure about dessert. However, we couldn't resist the tiramisu when our server mentioned it. This dessert was impossibly lighter than air and the sweetened mascarpone cheese, espresso-soaked ladyfinger cookies, and cocoa were in perfect harmony. We ate the entire dessert and had no regrets.

Service at the Trattoria is traditional,

with servers taking orders on a notepad and no kiosks or electronics to be found. We appreciated the pacing of our meal, with each course arriving after we finished the one before. We weren't in a hurry, and it was refreshing to sit back and enjoy the indulgence of lunch at a nice restaurant with a friend.

Take some time to walk and shop the market before or after your meal. There are separate prepared foods, imported cheeses, meat, deli, and pasta counters, along with an extensive bakery filled with homemade breads and decadent pastries. The olive selection simply cannot be beat. The produce department is filled with attractive displays, with unusual varieties of Italian favorites—and in-season items like fresh figs, pomegranates, and chestnuts. The dry goods corner in the back is stocked with groceries imported directly from Italy and not usually found in a grocery store. The pasta counter has freshly made ravioli (and so much more) that is perfectly paired with Cantoro's bottled pomodoro sauce.

This is an outing that will take you beyond the day trip. Plan a few dinners and pick out the groceries that aren't as easily found in the Ann Arbor area. We won't judge you if a few choices from the pastry counter make their way into your cart too. Buon appetito! ■

Cantoro Trattoria & Cantoro Italian Market 15550 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth 734.667.1199 cantorotrattoria.com

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The "Not Bitter" Cheshvan: Values of giving and gratitude

By Orit Aviran

Community members participate in HDS core values workshop

In the month of Cheshvan, or by its full name — Marcheshvan (Bitter Cheshvan) — Hebrew Day School holds our first Rosh Chodesh school assembly.

After the holiday-filled month of Tishrei, there's something challenging about this return to routine. The holidays give us a "scaffold" — special prayers, structured schedules, and clear frameworks for gratitude and reflection. But it's davka in the pressures of daily life that we want to find space to give thanks and bless what we have.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro writes in his book *Minyan:* "Spirituality is living with attention. Living with attention leads me to thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the response I have to the great debt I accrue with each breath I take."

And so, in the month we call at our school "Lo Mar Cheshvan" (Not Bitter Cheshvan), we also celebrate Thanksgiving and focus on instilling the Jewish value of gratitude, hakarat hatov.

In a recent core values workshop for our school staff and community representatives, including alumni parents and board members, one strength of our institution emerged repeatedly: the value of community that has sustained Hebrew Day School throughout its 50 years. During this month, as we launch our Annual Campaign, we recognize that this community strength isn't accidental — it is the "action item" of hakarat hatov.

Hebrew Day School was born in the minds of individuals from different backgrounds and views, who found themselves united and willing to take action for their children's education. Since then, we have been blessed with a community that continues this legacy of support — showing up not just in words, but through active participation in our Annual Campaign and in countless ways throughout the year.

This is the spirit of "Lo Mar" Cheshvan and Thanksgiving together. Not only gratitude for specific holidays or special occasions, but gratitude for the everyday. History has shown us repeatedly that for the Jewish people, the everyday cannot be taken for granted.

We are thankful for your support of our everyday: from morning prayers to Hebrew immersion, from growing friendships to learning and practicing chesed. We are grateful for the community and the everyday moments that allow our children to grow into menschen.

To continue supporting the foundation that allows us to offer excellent Jewish education, contact Development Director Tamar Jacobson at tjacobson@hdsaa.org or visit hdsaa.org. ■

Community members participate in HDS core values workshop

JBooks

BOOK SERIES SCHEDULE AT THE JCC

NOV 13 — **ALLISON EPSTEIN** *Fagin the Thief*

NOV 20 — **LOCAL AUTHORS** *Clare Kinberg, Henry Greenspan, Jack Zaientz, Barbara Stark Nemon, Cary Gitter*

DEC 1 — **COREY ROSEN** *A Story for Everything*

DEC 8 — **JASON SHACHTER MCKINNEY** *Jason Belongs*

DEC 18 — **ADAM NIMOY** *The Most Human*

JAN 29 — **ALKA JOSHI** *Six Days in Bombay*

FEB 19 — **RONI MALKAI** *We are Black Jews*

MAR 26 — **AYELET TSABARI** *Songs for the Brokenhearted*

APRIL 7 — **GWEN STRAUSS** *Milena and Margarete*

MAY 7 — **JUDY VIORST** *Making the Best of What's Left*

JCC community events are open to the public. All are welcome to join!

Register at JLive.app

A2J Climate Circle

Conserving water: A Jewish act of climate care

By Annie Wolock, for Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

Jewish tradition teaches bal tashchit (do not needlessly waste) and tikkun olam (do our part to repair the world). Water is one of the most basic gifts of creation, yet we often treat it as limitless. By conserving water here in Washtenaw County, we live out these values while protecting our neighbors and the environment.

Our region is already experiencing heavier spring rains, hotter summers, and more frequent drought conditions. That means more stress on the Huron River, local wetlands, and aging stormwater systems. Using less water at home preserves these ecosystems and reduces the energy needed to pump, treat, and heat water, shrinking our personal climate footprint.

Here are practical ways you can start today to easily reduce your water usage:
Fix leaks promptly. A dripping faucet can waste hundreds of gallons a year.

Install water-saving fixtures. Low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and efficient toilets dramatically cut use.

Run full loads. Dishwashers and washing machines are most efficient when full.

Water lawns and gardens wisely. In the cooler morning or evening, use soaker hoses or drip irrigation; choose native or drought-tolerant plants to reduce watering needs. Consider not watering your lawn, especially during a drought.

Capture rainwater. Washtenaw County encourages rain barrels to keep stormwater out of sewers and provide free irrigation water.

Reduce hot water use. Shorter showers and cold-water laundry save both water and the energy to heat it.

Be mindful in public spaces. Support parks, schools, and synagogues adopting water-smart landscaping and infrastructure.

Each step makes a tangible difference for our county's rivers, wetlands, groundwater, and the energy grid supporting them.

Practicing mindful water use is not just "green living," it's a daily expression of Jewish ethics, avoiding waste and helping heal the world, one drop at a time. ■

Developing a mitzvah of environmental sustainability

By Michael Simon for BIC

The second Ann Arbor Jewish Climate Circle (A2J CC) potluck Shabbat dinner will be at Beth Israel Congregation (BIC) at the 2010 Washtenaw building (annex at 2010 Washtenaw; main sanctuary at 2000 Washtenaw) on Friday, November 7, at 5:30.

The dinner is a way to continue to educate and coalesce our community around our collective desire to present a united effort to fight climate change. Please note that all food items should be vegetarian.

The A2J CC climate Shabbat dinner will be followed by services at 7 p.m. and oneg afterwards at the main congregational building at 2000 Washtenaw.

Everyone is warmly invited to the potluck dinner, services, or both. You will partake in our traditional Conservative Kabbalat Shabbat service, with the added music of Rachel Lupton, and special readings on Judaism and the environment. Climate Potluck sign up: bit.ly/42rBAFI ■

Psalm for the Earth

Three years ago, high school students at Beth Israel Religious School collaborated to create the psalm/poem you're about to read. Guided by Rabbi Sara Adler, teacher Mira Sussman, and then ritual assistant Meg Bernstein, the students produced a moving piece that reflects their voices and spirit.

Adonai, Source of Life,
The world is burning.

Our blue orb overflows with beauty.
It is a living organism–

Our home.

Source of Morality,
our earth is choking,
tired, covered in cement.
a giant mess, a dumpster.

Unknowable One,

We are hungry.
We are overwhelmed.
We are exhausted, even though we are young.

We are angry–at politicians, the rich, older generations
the short-sighted–because they don't listen.

We are angry about the injustice of imbalance.

We worry–
about global warming,
that bees are dying, that we won't be able to feed ourselves.

We worry that we are moving backwards
and incorrectly forwards.

But if–
people in power would listen,
if we could agree on facts,
if people who care had voices and actually used them,
if we used science to find solutions to complex problems,
if people could realize the time to act is NOW,
if this was not seen as a political issue...

Then, flat green lawns
could turn into gardens.
And the sun could power the planet and governments would support it.
Then positive change would benefit ALL and not just select groups.

Let us live in a world with drinkable water
and breathe-able air for all.
Let the world be diverse.
Let it sustain songbirds, insects, butterflies, moths, dolphins,
crabs, capybaras, rabbits, deer, squirrels, crocodilians, quokkas,
polar bears, rhinos, forests, seas, deserts, grasslands and icebergs.

And then, maybe we can breathe.
Then perhaps we can then focus on other issues
(like gun violence and poverty).

Source of Hope,
Let us live in peace,
and be grateful and appreciative
instead of fearful.
Let us live in a space where we
all feel safe, and let us use our skills,
our ideas
our love
for good.
Amen.

Jewish in America in December

By Lauren Zinn, special to the WJN

This is the fifth installment of a series from Lauren Zinn's book, Belong to the World, Bring Your Tribe: Reimagining Judaism in the Interspiritual Age.

Although America's dominant religion is Christianity, so far, people of other faiths are welcome. The first of three acts below focuses on being Jewish in December, and the second on being Jewish at Christmas. They present joys and challenges of becoming Jewish in an interfaith family and community for the Interspiritual Age.

ACT ONE

The joys and the challenges of interfaith life are amplified in December, the most interfaith time of the year. Every so often, three major holidays in America, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa, overlap. In December 2024, Christmas and Hanukkah met on the same day, a rare event that has only occurred a handful of times (1910, 1921, 1959, 2005). In addition, other holidays like Winter Solstice (Dec 21); the Swedish holiday of St. Lucia, bearer of light; and in Mexico and the Americas, the Catholic Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, punctuate the month.

December is so loaded with different religions' holidays that for interfaith families it is called December Dilemma. Partners can get tied in knots deciding what holiday to celebrate with which family members, where, and how. In my practice as an Interfaith Coach, I've seen this season cause feelings of December Disaster. But it's also an opportunity for reunion after separation and recognition.

I've had my own share of December Dilemmas. As December approached, my responses ranged from freaking out over a tree in the house to insisting our family attend church on Christmas Eve to combatting the commercialism of the holiday. There were times I kept the holidays in separate rooms and times I merged them into one, with a Jewish star topping the tree. When it felt competitive, I nixed giving Hanukkah gifts and made us make all the Christmas presents. I admit to times when I wanted to do nothing. "Let's not celebrate the holidays this year!" (Not recommended if you have children.) Inevitably, each year, I sought to cull new and relevant meaning as an interfaith family in a world that resisted recognizing the fullness of multiple belonging.

I turned to philosophy. I wanted the celebration of holidays to reflect a worldview that honors my religion's wise traditions, my husband's, and our local and global neighbors'. I wanted a worldview that values tradition and humanistic values, respects reason and progress, admits where legends end and history begins, and shares its esoteric teachings. I wanted a worldview that celebrates diversity, creativity, and truth but doesn't get stuck in "all is good" and "they're all the same" when they're not. Where was a worldview to *show*, not just say, how we are *all* deeply interconnected? Where was that philosophy of life?

What happened next forever changed my December. I began to step out of my ethnocentric, comfortable worldview. I attended interfaith, inter-religious, and interspiritual conferences. I read books on integral philosophy, underlining whole chapters. I responded to an evolutionary impulse to harmonize opposites — creation and evolution, ideas of life and death, and measures of GDP (Gross National Product) and GNH (Gross National Happiness) — not just in my head, but in practice. Then I began designing lessons, ceremonies, and celebrations with an urge to tap into larger consciousness. Slowly, my worldview expanded.

I had to consider, what is my worldview or combination of worldviews and what world was I creating? What is my philosophy of life and my conception of the world? What do I really value? How was my worldview formed and is it open to change?

I then chose to celebrate Hanukkah from a worldview where opposing perspectives are part of a greater whole, a bigger story, with room for the core values of multiple traditions and worldviews. It takes effort to construct this container and courage to live from it. But doing so can turn December's dilemma into December's delight.

ACT TWO

When Hanukkah and Christmas converge, some Jews worry that Hanukkah will be lost in the overlap. One year, the *Times of Israel* asked, "Is the Jewish community ready for a very merry interfaith Chrismukkah?"

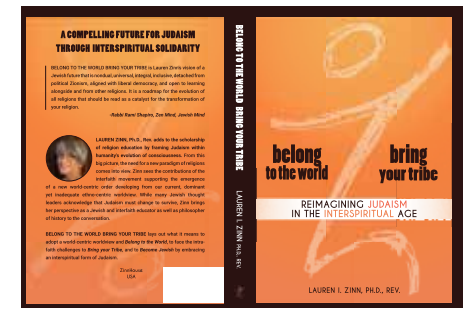
The article raised the discussion we can imagine took place in Judea in 165 BCE, leading to the events of Hanukkah. How much of "not Jewish" — whether Hellenistic culture or American culture — is too much? How much of "what is not Jewish" endangers "what is"?

The questions are loaded with assumptions about what it means to be Jewish in America (or the diaspora) and what it means to live with or surrounded by others who are not Jewish. Perhaps these assumptions need to be questioned if Judaism is to be a viable source of meaning and purpose and a resource for wisdom in the world.

With 37 years in an interfaith marriage, much of my life has been dedicated to discerning my relationship to Judaism in that context. I won't go into the story of this ever-evolving struggle (which may define my Jewishness), but I will share what I now do in December.

For years, I joined in my spouse's family tradition where we attended a Christmas Eve service at his family's Presbyterian Church. But one year, when Christmas Eve, Hanukkah, and Havdalah (the end of the Sabbath) happened to coincide, that tradition was interrupted by a change in the church schedule. It turned into an opportunity to lead a home service for my spouse's entire extended family. The home service I designed celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, and Havdalah, and was meaningful for everyone.

While my husband's family has roots in Presbyterian and Quaker traditions, the extended family members have former affiliations, current leanings, or spiritual interests in a range of spiritual paths including Mormon, Catholic, Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist, Indigenous, and Jewish traditions as well as agnostic, atheist, believer, seeker, spiritual but not religious, and poetic, among other



faith styles.

Our home service became a new tradition. I've led one for our growing family at Christmas time for nine consecutive years. It has been one of my greatest joys. My larger family gets to sing their favorite holiday songs and learn new ones, reflect on a theme that speaks to our times, and integrate spiritual teachings and scripture from multiple traditions. (As my mother likes to say, "The Jew in the family leads the Christmas service.") The truth is, I've learned more about the interdependence of Christmas with other religions than I would without this opportunity.

What makes our home service successful is the openness with which it is received. In this exchange lies the permeability necessary to share perennial wisdom among our world's different and treasured traditions. This is interspiritual.

ACT THREE

Not everyone has a big family with members of the same religion, let alone from or attracted to different traditions, but we can construct this opportunity among our religious communities. We can bring our ethno-centric structure into the fold of a larger interspiritual one. We can form new coalitions among different faith communities for in-person interspiritual experiences as well as virtual face-to-face programs for global experiences. We can encourage friendships across faiths so that we can build a foundation for belonging, as Jews committed to Judaism without nationalism, and to our interspiritual human family. The next time the *Times of Israel* asks if diasporic Jews are ready for the convergence of Hanukkah and Christmas, I hope this story shines a big light on our answer. Yes! Perhaps the way we reimagine Judaism in the Interspiritual Age will inspire people of different faiths to reimagine theirs as well. ■

JCC Local authors Continues from page 1

The Ann Arbor JCC's Book Festival is returning in a new format — the Jewish Book Series! In lieu of a two-week festival, authors will be visiting throughout the 2025–2026 year to share their books with the Ann Arbor Jewish community.

The structure of the series goes hand in hand with the JCC's Book Club, a brand-new recurring program. The club meets on Tuesdays from 1–2 p.m. to discuss the "Book of the Month." In partnership with Schuler Books, the JCC will be selling the books from this year's series. They will be available for purchase throughout the year.

Among the lineup of talented authors are Adam Nimoy, son of Star Trek star Leonard Nimoy, and Judith Viorst, author of the critically acclaimed *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.*

The November Jewish Book Series programs will kick off with a talk from Allison Epstein about her novel, *Fagin the Thief.* The book is historical fiction, delving into the complexities of the character Jacob Fagin from Oliver Twist. Epstein adds much depth to Fagin as a character, unpacking antisemitic tropes and humanizing him to readers.

The Local Authors event will also be returning to the JCC in November, this year as the Local Authors and Artists event. The authors will all give talks on their books, and the works of local artists will be on display around the building. The featured local authors and books for this year are:

Clare Kinberg: ***By the Waters of Paradise***

Henry Hank Greenspan: ***REMNANTS & What Remai***ns

Jack Zaientz: Jewish Monster and Magic Trading Cards, ***Wayward Children*** podcast, and more!

Barbara Stark-Nemon: ***Isabella's Way***

Cary Gitter: ***Cammy Sitting Shiva***

More details for each author's event and registration links can be found on Jlive.app.

In addition to the books from the series, the JCC will also be selling holiday items throughout November and into December — a one-stop shop for all of your Hanukkah needs. Grab your candles, decorations, gifts, and more to prepare for the holiday season.

With questions about this year's book series, please contact the JCC at (734) 971-0990. ■

Wallenberg institute Continues from page 1

point. At university, you have to read the book that *disproves* your point."

He also stressed the importance of the informal learning that takes place at universities over coffee with professors, and in the dorm with other students, experiencing true diversity often for the first time.

There are six remaining dialogues in this academic year, including topics on October 7 and its aftermath, hate speech in social media, American antisemitism, and more.

November's dialogue will look at how recent Supreme Court decisions and executive actions affect the relationship between church and state. "Should Religion Play a Role in the Law?" will feature Winnifred Sullivan of Indiana University and Benjamin Berger of Osgood Law School.

All of the Samantha Woll Dialogues are open to the public for live attendance in person, and are recorded and can be viewed on the Raoul Wallenberg Institute Website.

This series of dialogues, honoring Samantha Woll, adds to the Institute's mission (inspired by the example of Raoul Wallenberg) to study hatred directed against religious and ethnic communities, foster cross-cultural understanding, and elevate civic discourse. Through teaching, research, and public engagement, the institute is already hard at work developing strategies to combat antisemitism, divisiveness, and discrimination, and to foster a more empathetic and tolerant community at the University of Michigan. ■

November Calendar

Always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here. For Yom Kippur service times, see each congregation's information.

Saturday 1 Lech Lecha
Havdallah 7:11 p.m.

Tuesday 4
Vladimir Kara-Murza to deliver Wallenberg Lecture. See page 6. 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday 5
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 6
PJ Library Fall Pancake Breakfast. Register on JLive. 7:30 a.m.

Friday 7
Candle Lighting 5:03 p.m.
A2J Climate Circle Shabbat Potluck. At BIC. See page 14. 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 Vayeira
Havdallah 6:03 p.m.
Artists' Studio Tour. See page 3. 11 a.m.

Sunday 9
Artists' Studio Tour. See page 3. 11 a.m.

Monday 10
Federation Main Event with Mitch Albom. 6 p.m.

Tuesday 11
"Should Religion Play a Role in the Law?" Samantha Woll Dialogue Series. See page 1. 4 p.m.
The Media of Holocaust Memory. Frankel Center. See page 18. 4 p.m.

Wednesday 12
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group, see above): Zoom. 2:00 p.m.
Women's Liberation at the University of Michigan, 1968–1972" See page 20. 6 p.m.

Thursday 13
JCC Book Series. Allison Epstein, *Fagin the Thief*. 5:30 p.m.

Friday 14
Candle Lighting 4:56 p.m.
Gutman Gallery Holiday Market open.

Saturday 15 Chaya Sarah
Havdallah 5:57 p.m.
Creativity Circle at Downtown Library. See page 6. 1:30- 3:30

Sunday 16
Interfaith Roundtable with speaker Lauren Zinn. See page 6. 4 p.m.
Yonina Concert. Register on JLive. 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday 18
Overlapping Jurisdictions: How Islamic Courts Upheld Jewish Law in Colonial Egypt. Frankel Center. See page 18. 5 p.m.

Wednesday 19
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group, see above): Zoom. 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 20
JCC Book Series Local Author & Artists Event. See page 1. 5:30 p.m.

Friday 21 Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Candle Lighting 4:50 p.m.

Saturday 22 Toldot
Havdallah 5:53 p.m.
Sunday 23
Jewish Storytime at the AADL. Pittsfield Branch. Register on JLive. 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday 26
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group, see above): Zoom. 2:00 p.m.
Friday 28
Candlelight 4:46 p.m.

Saturday 29 Vayeitzei
Havdallah 5:50 p.m. ■

November at Temple Beth Emeth

Events and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, location information, and links.

Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join the Clergy to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 0–5. Registration requested.

Elementary Shabbat Service & Dinner (every second Friday of the month)
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
A short service, song session, and community building! Most appropriate for children ages 5–10 and their parents, grandparents, and other adults. Everyone is welcome! Registration requested.

Wine & Cheese Shabbat Reception
Fridays at 6 p.m. (except for the second Friday of each month)

Shabbat Service
Fridays at 6:30 p.m. (Every second Friday of the month is at 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.

Weekday morning blessings
Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.
Join TBE lay leaders each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

Queer Torah Study
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Join us in person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Marcotte & Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari M (ari.j.marcotte@gmail.com) for more information.

Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.
Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session.

Lnch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston
Fridays at 12 p.m.

Weekly Mahj
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open
Fridays at 5:30 p.m. (Every second Friday of the month is at 6:30 p.m.)
Washtenaw County's only Judaica Shop!

Monsters and Mulled Wine II
Saturday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Adult Hebrew Class
Sundays, November 2, 9, 16, at 4:30 p.m.

Psalms and (P)spirituality
Mondays, November 3 and 10, at 12 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Psalms Shabbaton with (P)scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Jade Sank Ross Dinner & Shabbat
Friday, November 14, at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 15, at 8:50 a.m.

Jewish Book Club
Thursdays, November 6, 13, 20, at 11 a.m.

New Member Havdalah
Saturday, November 8, at 6 p.m.

WTBE Novel Reading Group
Wednesday, November 12, at 1 p.m.

Brotherhood Guys Night Out
Thursday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Brotherhood Guys Day Out
Tuesday, November 25, at 9:30 a.m.

Cross-Age Relationships: How and Why to Nurture Them
Monday, November 17, at 12 p.m.

Bereavement Group
Tuesday, November 18, at 4 p.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle
Wednesday, November 19, at 5:30 p.m.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck
Friday, November 21, at 5:30 p.m.

Pulpit Switch — Rev. Anne on the Bimah & Choir Shabbat
Friday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Pulpit Switch — Rabbi Josh on the Altar
Sunday, November 23, at 10:30 a.m.

Erev Thanksgiving Service & Oneg
Sunday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m.

WTBE Hanukkah Bazaar
Friday, November 28, at 11 a.m.
Sunday, November 30, at 3 p.m. ■

AARC events in November

For more information about services or events or to receive Zoom links, please email: info@aarecon.org, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation website: aarecon.org

November 8
Meditation led by Anita Rubin-Meuller, 10–10:20 a.m., followed by a hybrid Shabbat Service led by our Rabbi, Gabrielle Pescador, at the JCC and on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30 a.m.–noon.

November 21
Rosh Chodesh Kislev morning service on Zoom. 9 a.m.

November 22
Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. This is a hybrid service led by Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador in person at the JCC and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! Followed by a nut-free potluck Oneg. 6:30 p.m.

Pardes Hannah in November

November 1
Shabbat Morning Services. Pardes Hannah. In person and online. 10 a.m.

November 15
Study Session. Pardes Hannah. In person and online. 3 p.m.

November 19
Rosh Chodesh Circle. Pardes Hannah. Online only. 7 p.m.

Jewish Cultural Society in November

First Friday Shabbat
November 7 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to join us for our Shabbat observance that includes secular readings, candle lighting, wine rituals, challah, and a Yahrzeit observance to remember loved ones. Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.
Preregistration required at jewishculturalsociety.org. Free, but donations accepted.

Third Friday Chavurah
Friday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m. Meets for brunch on the weekend of the Third Friday of almost every month. This adults-only group consists mainly of JCS members with grown children. For more information, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org ■

November events at Beth Israel

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Beth Israel Congregation Chavurat Nashim (Fellowship of Women) Kickoff Brunch
Sunday, November 2, at 11 a.m.
Join us as we re-imagine and re-invigorate Beth Israel Sisterhood as Chavurat Nashim Fellowship of Women. We will enjoy a delicious brunch, make new friends, and shape Chavurat Nashim together! We will discuss the following program categories: wellness & self-care, community service, creative endeavors, Jewish observance, learning opportunities, and social engagement. Please register on the BIC website (bethisrael-aa.org).

Climate Circle Potluck & Shabbat Service
Friday, November 7, Potluck at 5:30 p.m., Service at 7 p.m.
Join us for a special eco-friendly service followed by an oneg. Anyone interested in learning more about climate action is welcome to attend the A2J Potluck (Plant-Based) Dinner before the service at 5:30, which will take place in the G&S 2010 Building. RSVP for potluck required by using the link on the BIC website.

Advanced Intro to Judaism
Sunday, November 2 and 16, at 1 p.m.
This year, Rabbi Caine is opening his popular "Intro to Judaism" course to Jews and the Jew-curious alike. Whether you're considering identifying with the Jewish people and wish to know more, or you have Jewish family and want to learn more, or perhaps you are already Jewish but either never went to "Hebrew School" or did but realize you only got the kid version!
This biweekly course is for adults who are looking to learn anew or deepen their knowledge of the history, meanings, theologies, and practices of Judaism. What does it mean to read the Torah as an adult, develop a relationship with God and Jewish practices as an adult, see the world through a Jewish lens?
Weekly topics include "From Shepherds to Jews," "How to Do Torah Study as an Adult," "Kabbalah and God," "How the Jewish Prayer Service Really Works," "The History of the Israel-Arab Conflict," "How to Mourn as a Jew," and more!

Bob Dylan Shabbat
Friday, November 21, at 6 p.m.
Join Neil Alexander and his band and sing along to Bob Dylan songs curated by Rav Nadav to reflect the themes of the Friday Night Service. An experience of the music of Bob Dylan and the Shabbat liturgy interwoven together.

Thanksgiving CSA/Buy One, Give One!
Sunday, November 23
Eat well & share the bounty this Thanksgiving! Want to have fresh, delicious, locally grown food on your Thanksgiving table this year? Buy a box and give a box! Donated boxes will go to community members in need! Sign up here to participate in this one-day-only CSA with Tantre Farms on Sunday November 23rd. https://www.tantrefarm.com/how-does-our-thanksgiving-csa-work/
More questions about the CSA? Call Deb Lentz at (734) 475-4323. Have time to help with pick-up and distribution? Need a donated CSA box? Email Melanie at mgorman@bethisrael-aa.org

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin via Zoom
Mondays at 4 p.m.
The class meets on Zoom on Monday afternoons from 4–5:15. We will read the text in the original Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and discuss the text in English. No familiarity with Hebrew or prior experience studying Talmud is required. This fall, we will continue our study of sections from the tractate Megillah, which includes some fascinating commentaries on the book of Esther, discussions on the reading of the Megillah and other sacred texts, and the observance of the holiday of Purim. All are welcome!

Tot Shabbat
Saturday, November 8 and 22, at 11 a.m.
Join us for a playful morning of Jewish songs and stories. Challah and grape juice kiddush included. For kids age one through first grade and parents, but all are welcome.

Mini Minyan
Saturday, November 8, at 11 a.m.
Calling all 7–10-year-olds for Mini Minyan! Join us monthly for a Saturday morning service and kiddush.

Theology Book Club — Online
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services

Minyan
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the M&M Chapel and online
Sundays–Thursday at 7:30 p.m. online only

Friday Evening Services — in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Services — in person and virtual
Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. ■

Obituaries

The WJN prints obituaries, memories, and eulogies free of charge for family members of Washtenaw Jewish community members as a service to the community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away. When local congregations send condolence notices to the WJN, the editor searches for obituaries online. Also, community members are invited to send obituaries to the editor.

Annette Steinborn passed away in Rockville, MD on September 26, 2025. She was born in Chicago and grew up there as well as briefly in Culver City, CA. Annette also lived in Alpena, MI and spent most of her adult life in East Lansing, MI.

Annette is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Stanley Steinborn, whom she was married to for 50 years. The most important thing to Annette and Stan was to raise good children who would go into the world and do good things.

Annette is survived by her four children, Linda Bender (Karlan), Laurie Berman (Jeff), Steve Steinborn (Alyse) and Ailene Steinborn (Paul Love); as well as four grandchildren Jacob Bender (Melissa), Joshua Bender, Zachary Steinborn (Amy) and Kayla Haskin (Dan) and four great grandchildren Dan Bender, Addison Steinborn, Micah Steinborn, and Noah Haskin.

In addition to raising their four children, Annette demonstrated the value of education by returning to college to obtain her BS at Michigan State University and then her MS as well. It took her many years of taking one evening class at a time. Upon graduation, Annette worked for Michigan State University as an academic advisor. She was rightfully proud of her professional accomplishments – including developing a program to aid undergraduate students in selecting a major.

Annette lived a long and very full life. She was a strong woman who passed on that trait to her four children. She was so excited to become a grandmother and relished that role – spending as much time as she could with her grandchildren and then later with her great grandchildren.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions, in loving memory of Annette, to SmileTrain @ www.smiletrain.or ■

Lucinda Kurtz

Poem for New Moon in Cheshvan

Waves roll onto shore,
murmur their good morning.
Brilliant orange rays light clouds
with bold Jack o' lantern smile.

On this new moon of Cheshvan,
aroma of Fall's first fires
mingle with memories
of nourishing New Year.

Still moments of fragrant chill,
crunch of golden leaves
call us to inner landscape,
sanctuary of hidden dreams.

Aroused by perfume of promise,
we inhale the truth of ourselves
recognize the scent of our soul
trust this time of tender silence.

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to the families of:

Ina Lewis, stepmother of David (Sonya) Lewis and grandmother to Sarah and Rachel Lewis. Monday, September 1.
Dora Karnovsky, mother of Leon (Alla) Karnovsky. Wednesday, September 10.
Steven Goodman, brother of Hugh Goodman. Monday, September 22.
Annette Steinborn, mother of Linda Bender and grandmother of Jacob and Joshua Bender Friday, September 26.
Barbara "Barbie" Gelman, sister-in-law of Rita Gelman. Tuesday, September 30.
Daniel Shlomo Gabison, father of Jonathan Gabison.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Victoria Joffe on her bat mitzvah, November 1.
Sarah Shelef on her bat mitzvah, November 15.
Elise Weisbach on the birth of her great granddaughter, Julia Rose, daughter of Emily and Richard Weisbach.

The Samantha Woll Dialogues

LSA RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Should Religion Play a Role in the Law?

November 11, 2025
4:00 pm Union Pendleton room

Part of the Samantha Woll Dialogues, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute will host an exchange between Terrence McDonald, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, author of *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom,* and Benjamin Berger, author of *Law's Religion,* on how legal systems engage with religious beliefs and practices in pluralistic societies and how recent supreme court decisions and executive actions affect the relationship between church and state.

TERRENCE MCDONALD
Professor, History,
University of Michigan

WINNIFRED FALLERS SULLIVAN
Provost Professor Emeritus,
Religious Studies, Indiana
University Bloomington

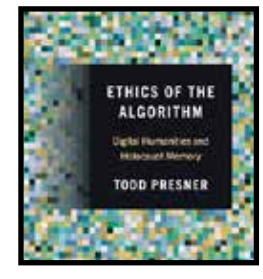
BENJAMIN BERGER
Professor, Pluralism and Public
Law, Osgoode Law School

Scan here to pre-register!

M | LSA JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Visit **lsa.umich.edu/judaic** for more information



The Media of Holocaust Memory

Panelists: Laura Levitt & Todd Presner
Tuesday, November 11 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Room 2022, South Thayer Building
Discuss the role of "high tech" computer algorithms and AI and "low tech" material artifacts as technologies for memorializing.

JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Women's Liberation at the University of Michigan, 1968-1972

Panelists: Gayle Rubin, Rayna Rapp, Ellen Meeropol, Beth Schneider, & Joanne Parrent
Wednesday, November 12 | 6 - 9 PM
Room 1840, School of Social Work
Explore the development of feminist consciousness and activism at U-M.

Overlapping Jurisdictions: How Islamic Courts Upheld Jewish Law in Colonial Egypt

Guest Speaker: Samy Ayoub (pictured)
Tuesday, November 18 | 5 - 6:30 PM
Room 2022, South Thayer Building
Explore Islamic legal influence in 19th & 20th century Egypt under Khedival rule, and it's eventual decline after 1883.

We are pleased to provide reasonable accommodations to enable full participation in this event. Please contact js-event-coord@umich.edu to request disability accommodations or with any questions/concerns.

Holiday Artist Market '25

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GIL SHAHAM

Thu, Nov 13 | 7:30 pm | Hill Auditorium

Gil Shaham is one of the foremost violinists of our time; his flawless technique, combined with his inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit, has solidified his renown as an American master. For his return appearance to Ann Arbor, he brings an all-Beethoven program, part of his year-long exploration of all 10 of Beethoven's sonatas for piano and violin with his longtime recital partner Akira Eguchi.

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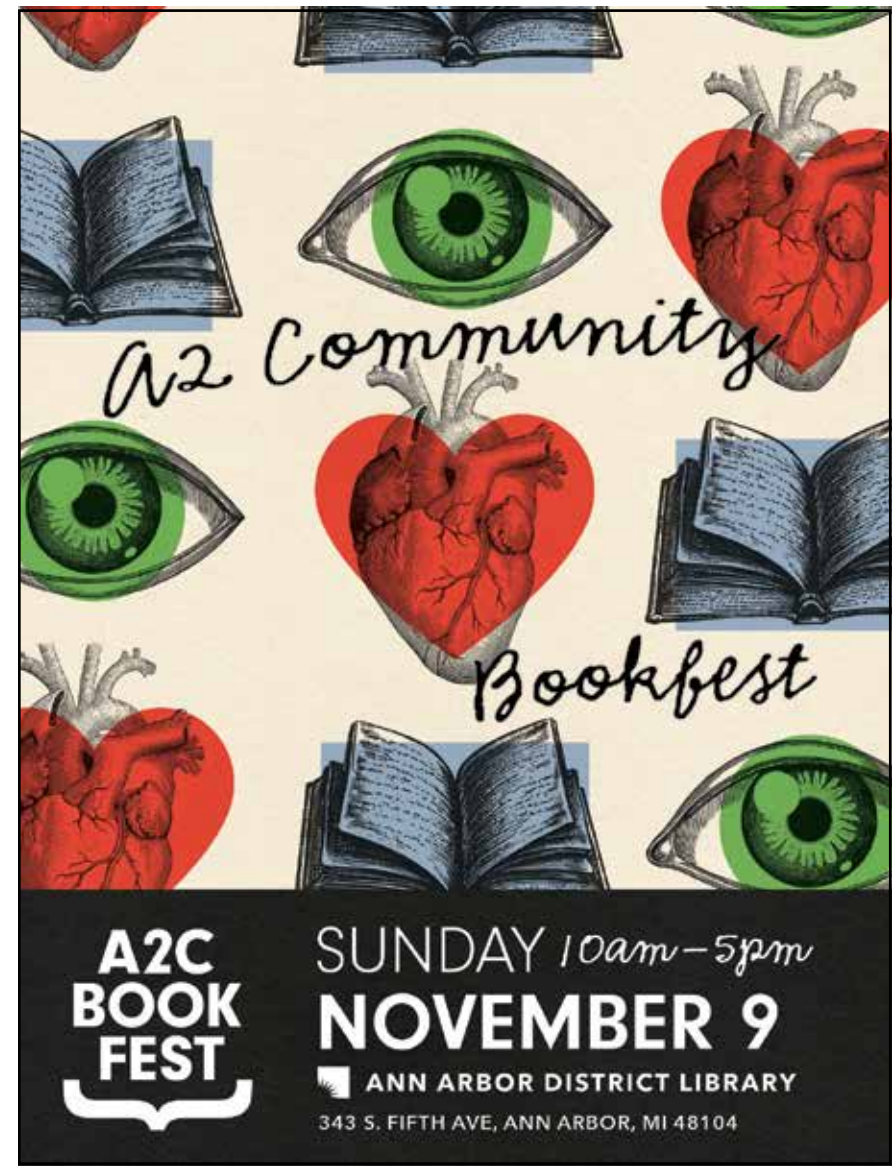

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

at the University of Michigan, 1968-72

Jewish and Other Identities in the Emergence of a Movement

A conversation with pioneering activists
Gayle Rubin, Rayna Rapp, Ellen Meeropol, Beth Schneider, and Joanne Parrent, moderated by Karla Goldman

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

6-8pm · (followed by reception)

U-M School of Social Work, 1080 S. University Ave.
Educational Conference Center (Room 1840)

RSVP >
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SCAN ME

INCLUSIVE HISTORY PROJECT
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JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
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LSA JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
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LSA WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
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